

March 11, 1958

To: The Board of the American Institute of Architects

Gentlemen:

I have been advised by Mr. Orr that the American Institute of Architects, in connection with its award of the Institute's Gold Medal, is considering, among others, the name of Wallace K. Harrison.

As Wally Harrison is a life-long friend, and his firm is now acting as senior architects in the planning of the new building for the Central Intelligence Agency, I may be a prejudiced witness. However, having admitted this prejudice, and with the further admission that I am no expert in the field of architecture, I take pleasure in adding a word about Wally Harrison as an individual.

As much of my life has been spent in the foreign field, I have naturally been interested in the great and constructive interest he has shown in developing better relations between this country and many other countries of the world, particularly certain of the South American countries -- a work in which he particularly engaged during World War II. His contribution to the field of international architecture was further signaled by the skill with which he brought the architects of many nations together in the planning and carrying out of the UN Headquarters in New York.

Of original and inventive mind, with quick and sensitive perception of the interests and aspirations of other people, he has been a leader in many fields other than architecture.

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As I do not know the other names which you may have before you for consideration, I cannot reach comparative judgment, but I feel, myself, that no honor would be too good for Wally Harrison.


Faithfully yours,

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

AWD:at

Distribution:

Orig - Addressee (sent to Douglas William Orr, Esq. *card*)

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1 cc - ER       

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